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## Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JON TESTER, a Senator from the State of Montana.

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray:

Thank you, dear God, for new opportunities. We are grateful that the best is yet to be, that our labors are moving us closer to the desired destination. Thank You for landmarks past and new vistas opening ahead. Thank You for time to mend broken relationships, to form fresh alliances, and to build new bridges. Thank You for Senators with new hopes, new desires, new inspiration, and new determination to serve You with greater faithfulness. Lord, thank You for another day to abide with You so that we can reap the bountiful harvest found only in You.

And, Lord, today as we honor the law enforcement officers who lost their lives in the line of duty, comfort and bless their families and loved ones. Use the 26th annual National Peace Officers Memorial Service to remind us of the sacrifices our law enforcement people make each day to protect our freedom. We pray in Your powerful Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable JON TESTER led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, May 15, 2007.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable JON TESTER, a Senator from the State of Montana, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,  
*President pro tempore.*

Mr. TESTER thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

### RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The acting majority leader is recognized.

### SCHEDULE

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, today the Senate will be in a period of morning business for 60 minutes, with the majority controlling the first half and the Republicans controlling the second portion.

Following morning business, the Senate will resume consideration of the water resources legislation. Several amendments were offered to this bill yesterday, and this morning one of those amendments—the one offered by the Senator from Oklahoma, Mr. COBURN, No. 1090—will be debated until 11:45, and then a vote will occur with respect to that amendment.

The Senate will recess, as usual, from 12:30 to 2:15 for the party conferences. Other votes with respect to amendments to the water resources legislation will occur this afternoon.

As the majority leader mentioned yesterday, a lot of work needs to be done prior to the Memorial Day recess, so Members should plan accordingly.

The majority leader has offered two amendments on the issue of Iraq, and cloture votes will occur on those amendments on Wednesday.

Additionally, cloture was filed on the motion to proceed to the immigration

legislation. That vote will occur at a time to be determined on Wednesday.

I am certain every Member of the Senate is conscious of the fact that we have a Memorial Day recess fast approaching at the end of next week. We have an ambitious goal we hope to reach by that time. We hope to deal with these outstanding pieces of legislation and to, of course, provide supplemental appropriations for the war in Iraq.

At the outset, I will say that the Water Resources Development Act, which Senator BOXER of California and Senator INHOFE of Oklahoma will bring to the floor in a few moments, is a bill that has been pending before the Congress for, I believe, 7 years—at least 6 years. Our failure to enact this bill has delayed the construction of critical infrastructure across America for 6 or 7 years. This is infrastructure that is important to every part of America—in the Midwest, dams on the Mississippi and Illinois Rivers, which are vital arteries when it comes to agribusiness and other uses to create profitability and employment. All of these are in a state of disrepair, and we want to address the modernization and safety measures for these locks and dams and many other projects.

For 6 or 7 years, the debate has gone on unresolved. The House passed overwhelmingly the Water Resources Development Act. The Senate has the same opportunity, but we need to do it on a timely basis.

I thank the Senator from Oklahoma, who is offering an amendment this morning. I am told by the manager of the bill, Senator BOXER, that he has been cooperative in terms of reducing the debate time, giving enough time to explain his amendment, for others to speak to it, and bring it to a vote.

I urge every other Senator that this is the day; if you have an amendment to the Water Resources Development Act, bring it to the floor today. After 2:15, bring your amendments to the

• This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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